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The Next Universal Peace Congress.

We give on another page the details of a conference held in Washington on the 13th of January to inaugurate the preparations for the thirteenth Universal Peace Congress, which is to meet in this country next autumn. After a good deal of discussion of the matter of the place and time of holding the Congress, etc., it was decided to appoint a committee of twelve, representing the leading peace organizations of the country, with full powers, to determine the place and date of the Congress, to appoint all necessary committees, to raise funds, prepare the program, etc.

This committee, the names of which are given in the account of the Washington conference on page thirty, have arranged for a meeting in New York on the thirteenth of this month, at which the place and date of the Congress will be decided, and all the necessary machinery put in motion.

It is expected that this peace Congress will be one of the largest and most influential ever held, as the sentiment in favor of international peace has now become so widespread and strong in all civilized countries. Large delegations are expected to come from England, France and other European countries, and it is hoped also to get to the Congress some prominent men from South America, from Chile and the

Argentine Republic particularly, where peace sentiment has been recently taking deep root.

Our readers will be kept informed from month to month of the progress of the preparations for the Congress.

The Washington Arbitration Conference.

The national conference called to meet in Washington to promote the negotiation of an arbitration treaty with Great Britain met in the Assembly Hall of the New Willard Hotel, January 12, at 10 o'clock. The preparation of the Conference had been made by the National Arbitration Committee appointed at the Conference held in Washington in April, 1896. The chairman of the Committee was Hon. John W. Foster, ex-Secretary of State.

The moment that the Conference was seen coming together it became evident that Mr. Foster and his committee had done an immense amount of hard and wise work in organizing it. No such body of prominent public men has ever before come together in this country in the interest of any peace effort. The Conference of 1896 was a distinguished and influential gathering, but this went much beyond it, especially in the spirit of the meeting. In the Conference of 1896 there was a good deal of timidity and hesitancy on the part of some. There was nothing of the sort in the recent meeting. As one saw the distinguished personages present and manifesting a deep and unreserved interest in the subject which had brought them there, one could not help feeling that the cause of arbitration and international concord had made very great strides within a few years. Ten years ago only a small number of these persons could have been gotten into any hall where arbitration or any other phase of the peace question was to be discussed.

Among those present—nearly two hundred in all—we noticed Andrew Carnegie, who has given a million and a half for a peace palace for the Hague Court; Judge George Gray of Delaware, a member of the Hague Court, and chairman of the great strike commission of last year; Hon. Oscar S. Straus, ex-Minister to Turkey, and also a member of the Hague Court; Hon. J. M. Dickinson, leading counsel for the United States before the Alaska Boundary Commission; Hon. Jackson H. Ralston, agent of the United States in the Pious Fund arbitration; Cardinal Gibbons, whose great devotion to peace is

everywhere known; President David Starr Jordan of Leland Stanford, Jr. University, who came all the way across the continent to attend the meeting; President Prather of the University of Texas, who came nearly as far; Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor; Dr. Daniel C. Gilman, ex-president of Johns Hopkins University; Henry B. F. Macfarland, chairman of the governing commission of the District of Columbia; Governor Durbin of Indiana; Hon. Frederick W. Seward, once assistant Secretary of State; Hon. Hannis Taylor of Washington, Hon. Samuel R. Thayer of Minneapolis, Hon. George F. Seward of New York, Hon. Wayne McVeagh of Washington, all of whom have done honorable service in diplomacy abroad. Many business men were present representing the great organizations of the country, distinguished clergymen, college presidents, men of literature and of the press. It is needless to say that the "Old Guard" of the peace movement was well represented, from Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Washington, Baltimore, and elsewhere. Dr. Edward Everett Hale, Hon. Robert Treat Paine, Hon. Samuel B. Capen, Edwin Ginn, Edwin D. Mead, Philip C. Garrett, Joshua L. Bailey, Benjamin F. Trueblood, Hon. William J. Coombs, Hon. John I. Gilbert, Hon. John W. Hoyt, Hon. W. Martin Jones, etc.

Of the States of the Union, Delaware, New York, Texas, Wisconsin, Missouri, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Virginia, North Carolina, California, Indiana, Illinois, Connecticut, Minnesota, New Jersey, Michigan, Nebraska, Maine and Ohio were represented. The District of Columbia naturally furnished an unusually large contingent of members. Of the chief cities of the land, Washington, New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Baltimore, Brooklyn, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Rochester, Richmond, New Haven, Albany, Grand Rapids, Galveston, and many important smaller cities and towns, were represented.

Hon. John W. Foster was chosen chairman of the Conference, and Thomas Nelson Page and Clinton Rogers Woodruff, secretaries. A report of the work of the National Arbitration Committee since its appointment in 1896 was made by George L. Rives of New York.

At the morning session no attempt at elaborate addresses was made. Short speeches were called for from Hon. Frederick W. Seward, once Assistant Secretary of State, Stuyvesant Fish of New York, Samuel Gompers, Dr. Thomas Barclay of London, Judge Kech of New York, President Prather of the University of Texas, William R. Tucker of Philadelphia, Governor Durbin of Indiana, A. B. Farquhar of Pennsylvania, of the National Association of Manufacturers, Hon. George F. Seward of the New York Chamber of Commerce, Hon. Thomas J. O'Brien of

Grand Rapids, Mich., Mr. Blanchard Randall of Baltimore, Hon. Jackson H. Ralston of Washington, Hon. Henry E. Cobb of Newton, Mass., Horace White of New York, and Dr. Merrill E. Gates, secretary of the Indian Commission. Most of these were new voices in an arbitration conference.

Letters of approval of the purpose of the Conference were read from the Mayors of New York, Chicago, Boston and Detroit, and the chairman announced the presence of similar letters from numerous prominent persons who could not be present.

At the close of the morning session the committee on resolutions, through Judge Gray, chairman, reported the following, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, by a concurrent resolution of the Congress of the United States adopted in 1890, the President was requested to invite negotiations with other governments, to the end that any differences which could not be adjusted by diplomacy might be referred to arbitration and peaceably adjusted by such means, and the British House of Commons in 1893 adopted a resolution expressing cordial sympathy with this purpose as well as the hope that the British government would lend its ready coöperation to the government of the United States, to the end that the resolution of Congress might be made effective; and,

Whereas, since that time, as the result of an international Conference, a Permanent Court of Arbitration has been established at The Hague, to which nations may voluntarily resort for the peaceful settlement of their differences; and

Whereas, it is the opinion of this Conference that the government of the United States, in view of its historical position and of the great result accomplished by means of arbitration, should continue to further and to support the movement by peaceful means of the reign of law and justice among nations;

Resolved, that it is recommended to our government to endeavor to enter into a treaty with Great Britain to submit to arbitration by the Permanent Court at The Hague, or, in default of such submission, by some tribunal specially constituted for the case, all differences which they may fail to adjust by diplomatic negotiations.

Resolved, That the two governments should agree not to resort in any case to hostile measures of any description till an effort has been made to settle any matter in dispute by submitting the same either to the Permanent Court at The Hague or to a commission composed of an equal number of persons from each country of recognized competence in questions of international law.

It is further resolved that our government should enter into treaties to the same effect as soon as practicable with other powers.

In the afternoon a mass meeting was held in the Lafayette Square Theatre. Every seat even in the topmost gallery was occupied, and the great audience was most sympathetic and enthusiastic. When the resolutions adopted in the morning were read by Thomas Nelson Page, and their approval asked for, a ringing aye, repeated at the request of Mr. Foster,

and heard in the streets outside, made it evident that if universal arbitration could have been established at the will of that great throng, it would not have had to wait long. The speakers at this meeting, all of whom were listened to with the closest attention, were Cardinal Gibbons, Gen. Nelson A. Miles, Dr. E. E. Hale, Rabbi Silverman, Hon. J. M. Dickinson and Andrew Carnegie. Abstracts of these speeches are given on another page.

On Wednesday morning, at half past ten o'clock, a committee of sixteen gentlemen, of whom Hon. Henry St. George Tucker of Virginia was the spokesman, called upon President Roosevelt and presented to him the resolutions adopted by the Conference. The President received the committee most cordially, expressed himself as in perfect accord with the wish of the Conference, and said that he would devote his most careful consideration to the subject, and take all possible practical action in the direction of bringing about such agreements between this and other nations. The committee afterwards called upon Secretary Hay, who also assured them that the State Department would do all in its power to meet the wishes of the Conference. At eleven o'clock, a large committee of the Conference, of which Governor W. T. Durbin of Indiana was spokesman, also presented the resolutions to the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The Conference, though in our judgment it confined itself too largely to the commercial and economic reasons for a treaty of arbitration with Great Britain, was a notable one, whether it be considered from the point of view of the influence which it will exert, or as an expression of the great advance recently made in public sentiment in favor of pacific relations between nations. We shall all hope that through its influence, cooperating with others, a treaty with Great Britain will be shortly signed and sent to the Senate for ratification. The influences which led to the failure of the treaty of 1897—the free silver issue, the Irish opposition and the Alaska boundary question—are now all out of the way. It is impossible to imagine any cause, now operating, which would lead more than one-third of the Senators to vote against a new treaty. Congress ought not to be allowed to adjourn again until the treaty is signed, ratified and proclaimed to the world.

An Arbitration Group in Congress.

One of the most interesting incidents associated with the Washington Arbitration Conference last month was the formation of an arbitration group, or section of the Interparliamentary Union, in the United States Congress.

It is not easy, at first thought, to understand why such a group was not organized years ago. One would naturally have expected, from the leading part

taken by our country in the promotion of international arbitration, that members of our national Congress would have been among the first to associate themselves with the body of parliamentarians created in 1889 at Paris for the promotion of better and more pacific relations among the nations.

The reason why they have failed to do so is probably that the necessity of such a movement has not been deeply felt in this country where until now we have known little of the burdens and dangers of an overgrown militarism. The distance, too, has contributed much to keep the members of our Congress away from the meetings of the Union, which have been held in various cities of Europe. Only Mr. Barrows, formerly member of Congress from Massachusetts, and Mr. Bartholdt, at present a member from Missouri, have been members of the Union.

It is due to Mr. Bartholdt's initiative that a group of members of the Union is now being formed among our Senators and Representatives. He succeeded last September, at the Conference at Vienna, in inducing the Union to hold its next meeting in this country. His invitation was accepted, however, with the provision that an official invitation by the President or Congress should be extended.

On Mr. Bartholdt's call about forty Representatives and Senators met in the lobby of the House of Representatives on Wednesday evening, the 13th of January, for the purpose of the organization of a branch of the Union. The origin, growth and work of the Union were explained by Mr. Bartholdt and more fully by Mr. Samuel J. Barrows, who was present. Much interest was manifested by those present, admirable short speeches being made by Mr. Hitt, chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, by Mr. Hepburn of Iowa and others. All of those who were present entered into the organization, and Mr. Bartholdt stated that, from his knowledge of the feeling in Congress, probably two-thirds of the members of both Houses would join.

A committee was appointed to secure the signatures of other Senators and Representatives, and to prepare a resolution to be introduced into Congress, asking that an official invitation to meet in this country be extended to the Union, and that an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars be made for the entertainment of the delegates when they arrive, as they have been officially entertained in other countries.

The Conference will meet in St. Louis, if the arrangements go forward,—as there is no doubt will be the case,—sometime in September next, and it is hoped to make it the most imposing demonstration of public men in favor of international arbitration and peace that has ever been made.

The Interparliamentary Union sprang from an effort made in 1888, on the initiative of Mr. William Randal Cremer, M. P., to bring the members of the English and French parliaments into closer relations